

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6662

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, SREF, SHUM, AF, PK
SUBJECT: HARD INFO ON AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN IS VIRTUALLY
NON-EXISTENT

REF: ISLAMABAD 7934

1. THE SKIMPY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES THAT THE JAMIAT-I-ISLAM (ISLAMIC SOCIETY) IN AFGHANISTAN HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN A VERY LOOSE GROUPING OF LIKE-MINDED RELIGIOUSLY AND POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE INDIVIDUALS. REPORTEDLY, JAMIAT HAS NEVER BEEN A TIGHTLY ORGANIZED POLITICAL "PARTY", AND HAS LIMITED ITS ACTIVITIES TO SALON-STYLE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OF POLITICAL EVENTS. THUS, AT THE MOMENT, THE JAMIAT ITSELF PROBABLY CONSTITUTES A VERY LIMITED POLITICAL FORCE, ALTHOUGH ITS CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC VIEWS MAY ATTRACT MORE ADHERENTS UNDER THIS LEFTIST REGIME IN KABUL.

2. WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION REGARDING HOW MANY AFGHANS MAY HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER INTO PAKISTAN SOLELY AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENTS HERE. RUMORS, AND THAT IS ALL THEY ARE AT THIS TIME, CONTEND
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THAT THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS (AND EVEN SOME ENTIRE UNITS) HAVE DESERTED THE AFGHAN ARMY AND SOUGHT REFUGE IN PAKISTAN. THE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF AIR-CRAFT DEFECTIONS ARE WELL KNOWN, BUT LAST WEEK'S BIZARRE INCIDENT INVOLVING A "LOST" MIG-17 IS THE ONLY DEFINITELY KNOWN LANDING OF AN AFGHAN PLANE IN PAKISTAN. WE TAKE MOST OF THESE STORIES WITH A BAG

OF SALT PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT A MASS
EXODUS OF AFGHAN MILITARY TO PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE
PROVOKED RELIABLE REPORTS FROM INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER
SOURCES HERE AND IN PAKISTAN.

3. FURTHER RUMORS ASSERT THAT THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS
ALSO HAVE FLED ACROSS THE BORDER IN ORDER TO CARRY ON
THE ANTI-KAFIR (INFIDEL) FIGHT, BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF
CONFIRMING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED, ALTHOUGH WE
PRESUME THAT SOME AFGHANS HAVE, IN FACT, CROSSED INTO
PAKISTAN SEEKING A MEANS TO RESIST THIS REGIME. AT
THIS POINT, WE ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO TIE OURSELVES TO
EVEN A BROAD ESTIMATE OF HOW MANY AFGHANS HAVE LEFT
THE COUNTRY FOR REASONS OTHER THAN THE CONTINUED
CROSS-BORDER MIGRATIONS.
DUBS

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